

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 208978

62

ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 AGR-10 L-03 COME-00

TRSE-00 /042 R

DRAFTED BY OPIC/FD:GWILLIAMS

APPROVED BY EB/IFD/OIA:RJSMITH

EB/IFD/OIA:DHSTEBBING

NEA/AFN:LMURRAY (INFO)

OPIC/FD:PMCCALLUM(IN DRAFT)

AID/NE/NENA:JKNOLL (INFO)

----- 096543

R 232017Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS STATE 208978

FROM OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT:AGRIBUSINESS

REF: STATE 149392

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL PRESIDENT KENNETH MUELLER HAS RECEIVED LETTER, DATED AUGUST 7, FROM EZZEDDINE CHELBI, QUOTE POUR LE MINISTRE UNQUOTE, AS FOLLOWS:

"MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT,

"SUITE A VOTRE LETTRE DU 24 JUILLET 1976, RELATIVE AUX POSSIBILITES DE COOPERATION ENTRE LA TUNISIE ET VOTRE GROUPE, DANS LE DOMAINE DES INVESTISSEMENTS DANS LE SECTEUR AGRO-INDUSTRIELS ET NOTAMMENT A L'ENVOI D'UN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 208978

PETIT GROUPE D'ETUDE POUR RECUEILLIR DES RENSEIGNEMENTS

STATISTIQUES EN VUE DE LA CREATION D'UN PROJET PILOTE
DANS LE SECTEUR CONSIDERE, J'AI L'HONNEUR DE VOUS
INFORMER, QUE LE GROUPE D'ETUDE DONT IL S'AGIT POURRAIT
SE RENDRE EN TUNISIE A PARTIR DU 1ER OCTOBRE PROCHAIN.

"PAR AILLEURS, L'ORGANISME TUNISIEN QUI SERA CHARGE DE
LA COORDINATION DE TOUS LES ASPECTS DES PROPOSITIONS
DANS PROPOSITIONS DANS LE SECTEUR AGRO-INDUSTRIEL,
EST LE CENTRE NATIONAL D'ETUDES AGRICOLES 1, RUE OUM-
KOUITHOUM TUNIS, RELEVANT DU MINISTERE DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DIRIGE PAR MONSIEUR ABDELMAJID SLAMA.

"EN VOUS RENOUVELANT MES REMERCIEMENTS POUR LES EFFORTS
QUE VOTRE GROUPE ENTREPREND EN FAVEUR D'UNE FRUCTUEUSE
COOPERATION MUTUELLE, VEUILLEZ AGREER MONSIEUR LE
PRESIDENT L'EXPRESSION DE MA CONSIDERATION DISTINGUEE."

2. CHEKIB NOUIRA, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE TUNISIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK, IS VISITING
U.S. AND HAS MET WITH OPIC DVP/F PHILIP MCCALLUM AND
MANAGER, AGRIBUSINESS PROJECTS GRAHAM WILLIAMS. THEY
DISCUSSED COUNCIL'S PROGRAM AND ITS STATUS, INCLUDING
IMPLICATIONS OF CHELBI LETTER, AND NOUIRA SAID THAT THE
GOT IS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND IS ANXIOUS
THAT IT BE IMPLEMENTED EFFICIENTLY. HE ASSERTED THAT
GOT INTEREST IS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS AND THAT CHELBI
IS NOW IN FULL AGREEMENT. REASON CHELBI SIGNED LETTER
IS THAT MINISTER BELKHODJA WAS ON VACATION AT THE TIME.

3. NOUIRA INTERPRETED FIRST PARAGRAPH OF LETTER TO
MEAN THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD PUT ITS PROJECT PROFILE
TECHNICAL TEAM INTO TUNISIA ASAP AFTER OCTOBER FIRST.
THIS IS THE NEXT STEP IN THE COUNCIL'S PROGRAM AS
OUTLINED THEM AND AS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL A. TEAM
BEING FORMED NOW AND ETA AND INFORMATION ON MEMBERS
WILL BE CABLED TO YOU SHORTLY.

4. NOUIRA SAID THAT APPOINTMENT OF THE CENTRE NATIONAL
D'ETUDES AGRICOLES IS A GOOD ONE BECAUSE IT IS BEST
SOURCE OF RELEVANT INFORMATION NEEDED FOR PROJECT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 208978

PROFILE DEVELOPMENT; ALSO THAT ABDELMAJID SLAMA, HEAD
OF THE CENTRE, WAS SELECTED BECAUSE OF HIS FAVORABLE
PERSONAL QUALITIES AS WELL AS HIS POSITION. SLAMA
WILL REPRESENT MINAG ON INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE
RESPONSIBLE FOR GOT COORDINATION OF THE COUNCIL'S
PROGRAM. OTHERS WILL BE MOHAMED GHEDIRA AND AS A
SOMETIMES MEMBER A REPRESENTATIVE OF API. NOUIRA
SAID GOT WILL APPOINT THIS COMMITTEE SHORTLY.

5. MCCALLUM AND WILLIAMS STRESSED THAT THE COUNCIL RATHER THAN OPIC HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR EARLY LEADERSHIP IN THE MULTI-PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. IN THAT ROLE, HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL MAY EXPERIENCE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION, MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE VARIOUS GOT AGENCIES INVOLVED HERE; AND ONE ROLE FOR OPIC AT THIS STAGE IS TO HELP RESOLVE ANY SUCH DIFFICULTIES. NOUIRA WAS URGED TO KEEP THIS IN MIND. MCCALLUM AND WILLIAMS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IN WORKING ON PRACTICAL PROJECTS FOR U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT VENTURE IMPLEMENTATION THE TUNISIANS MAY SEE WHERE SOME EXISTING POLICIES OR PROGRAMS IMPEDE MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR FOOD SECTOR POTENTIAL. AS THE WORK ON PROJECTS PROCEEDS AND SPOTLIGHTS SOME OF THESE IMPEDIMENTS, THE GOT CAN LOOK TO OPIC AND TO AID FOR SUGGESTIONS ON SOURCES OF GUIDANCE FOR CORRECTING THEM. BECAUSE OF THESE FACTORS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE GOT REMAIN INFORMED AND INVOLVED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, AND THE PROGRAM DESCRIBED REFTTEL PROVIDES FOR THIS.

6. NOUIRA'S HOST IN CALIFORNIA PORTION OF TRIP HAS BEEN FORREST WALLACE. NOUIRA SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE RELEVANCE TO TUNISIA OF CALIFORNIA'S SUCCESSFUL AGRI-BUSINESS PRACTICE, PARTICULARLY WHAT HE SAW IN THE IMPERIAL VALLEY.

7. NOUIRA FEELS THAT THE WALLACE PRIMEURS PROJECT WILL MOVE ALONG SUCCESSFULLY. HE THINKS THAT WALLACE HAS A GOOD POTENTIAL PRIVATE TUNISIAN PARTNER AND THAT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON BASIC CONCEPT, THESE DIFFERENCES WILL BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 208978

8. OPIC SOLICITS EMBASSY/AID OBSERVATIONS ON THE ABOVE. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE208978
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GWILLIAMS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760322-0642
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760828/aaaaaxzo.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OPIC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 149392
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2005 by morandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AGRIBUSINESS
TAGS: EFIN, TS, AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL, (SELBI, EZZEDDINE)
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006